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STEPHEN D. COAN
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Fire Departments

From: Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

Date: December 4, 2015

RE: State planning efforts for a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Last week MEMA hosted a conference call with fire departments and other municipal officials to make you aware of state planning efforts for a Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak among birds, expected for this winter. This disease effects both wild and domesticated birds and requires, in the case of domestic agricultural birds (chickens, turkey, etc.) an immediate depopulation. This responsibility, under the state plan, has been assumed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

One of the accepted methods of depopulation is the use of medium or high expansion fire fighting foam. The DEP is purchasing foam for this purpose, or as replacement, but does not have foam generating and application equipment. The Department of Fire Services (DFS) has committed to assisting DEP in advance planning and identification of foam equipment through local fire departments. To be clear, such assistance (i.e. equipment loan) would be through agreement between DEP and the fire department and not through DFS.

Fire departments that are willing to support DEP through the deployment of foam equipment are asked to contact:

Nicholas Child, Chief Emergency Planner
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Administrative Services • Division of Fire Safety
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